

SPRINGFIELD UNION (MA)
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Students place CIA recruiter under 'citizen's arrest'

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WILLIAMSTOWN — Eight Williams College students Tuesday placed CIA recruiter Stephen Conn under "citizen's arrest for violation of national and international law."

The students, members of an Ad Hoc Committee to Stop the War Against Nicaragua, did not interfere with Conn's interviews with approximately 20 seniors showing an interest in possible CIA affiliation.

The incident took place at the Williams Office for Career Counseling at Mears Hall, although a Williams security officer was called to observe the mock "arrest."

Katma Kassamali, director of counseling, said the students "have the right to express their views, as long as they do not disrupt the interviews."

Conn said he conducted similar interviews last year without incident.

Richard Helms, who headed the CIA for several years in the administration of President Richard Nixon, was a 1935 graduate of Williams. He has appeared at several Williams events and was a guest speaker last fall, all without incident.

The protesting students, who were not identified, also presented

Conn with a three-page list of charges, concluding with, "The CIA must stop its illegal murderous activities. The CIA must be stopped. It must be made accountable."

In addition, the students distributed an open letter addressed to the Williams community, with a condensed list of charges against the CIA.

The letter said, "In violation of numerous national and international statutes, the CIA is engaged in a massive military operation in Nicaragua. It has mined Nicaragua's harbors, encouraged political sabotage and assassination, and financed, trained, directed, and supplied the Contras' war against the Nicaraguan government."

The letter continued, "The judgment that the CIA's activities in Nicaragua are illegal is supported by many well-respected authorities. Among these are the International Court of The Hague, the National Lawyers Guild and the Center for Constitutional Rights."

"As the CIA recruits on the Williams campus, it solicits aid for the violation of national and international law. This is a criminal act."

The letter concludes, "By granting the CIA the use of its private facilities, Williams is complicit in this crime ..."